

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6999

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 2176

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LA, US, AFSP, MPOL, PINR

SUBJECT: LAO GOVERNMENT REQUEST THAT ALL DAO PERSONNEL DEPART LAOS

REF A VIENTIANE 2163, B STATE 224587

1. DURING MORNING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, WE MADE FIVE TELEPHONE CALLS TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S OFFICE TO TRY TO CONTACT CHEF DE CABINET SOUBANH SRITHIRATH TO ARRANGE MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AS INSTRUCTED REF B. EACH TIME WE WERE TOLD TO CALL BACK LATER BECAUSE SOUBANH WAS BUSY.

2. SATURDAY AFTERNOON CHIEF OF POLITICAL SECTION CALLED ON SOUBANH IN HIS OFFICE. HE SAID I HAD REPORTED SEPTEMBER 9 CONVERSATION WITH SOUBANH AND HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SEEK MEETING WITH MINISTER ON SUBJECT OF THAT CONVERSATION.

3. SOUBANH SAID THE MINISTER WAS BUSY AND THAT IF I WAS IN A HURRY I SHOULD SEE HIM, SOUBANH, AGAIN. CHIEF POLITICAL SECTION SAID MY INSTRUCTIONS WERE TO REQUEST MEETING WITH MINISTER. SOUBANH SAID WE COULD CALL AGAIN MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 TO FOLLOW UP ON OUR REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT WITH MINISTER.

4. WE SHALL TRY AGAIN MONDAY. IT IS POSSIBLE OF COURSE FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL NEITHER PUT REQUEST FOR DAO DEPARTURE IN WRITING NOR EVEN REITERATE IT ORALLY ON MINISTERIAL OR DEPUTY MINISTERIAL LEVEL. THEY MAY JUST STALL AND NOT GRANT ME AN APPOINTMENT, GIVEN THE FACT THAT THEY DECIDED TO USE THE SOUBANH

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CHANNEL IN THE FIRST PLACE AND HE SPECIFICALLY TOLD ME THEY DID

NOT WANT TO GIVE ME A NOTE.

5. IF THEY DO NOT IN FACT AGREE TO A MEETING WITH PHOUNE OR A
DEPUTY WE MIGHT WELL CONSIDER AFTER A CERTAIN LAPSE OF TIME
SENDING A NOTE RECAPITULATING MY CONVERSATION WITH SOUBANH AND
OUR SUBSEQUENT UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO CONFIRM IT AT HIGHER
LEVELS AND THEN TELLING THEM THAT "FAUTE DE MIEUX" WE ARE COMPLYING
WITH THEIR REQUEST. I UNDERSTAND THE DEPARTMENT'S DESIRE TO
ESTABLISH LPDR INTENTIONS IN WRITING FOR THE RECORD BUT I AM
NOT OPTIMISTIC REGARDING THEIR COOPERATION IN THIS REGARD.
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